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SAINT THOMAS MORE CHURCH CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY

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Second Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love is everlasting" Psalm 118

The first thing that we notice in today's gospel is the amazing effect of that the presence and words of Jesus have on his confused and frightened disciples. He finds them in hiding, completely immobilized by the terrible realization of the death of their beloved leader. He addresses them cheerfully with the standard greeting: "Peace." Under normal circumstances, this simply means that one wishes another well. But it means far more than that when spoken by the risen Lord. The disciples feel that the world is out of control. Jesus assures them that such is not the case. In fact, he is there to offer them the gift of deep and unshakable confidence. In spite of dire appearances, all is well.

The reason that all is well is because Jesus now offers them the Spirit. This Holy Spirit has the ability to enter the deepest recesses of their being and to make Jesus more truly present to them than he ever was when they knew him in the flesh. Jesus offers the same Spirit to us also and this Spirit can make Jesus wonderfully present to us. For it is this same Spirit who convinces us of the love of God for us...and, to the extent that we know that, we have nothing to fear.

We recall how God took his good spirit from King Saul and gave it to King David (1 Sam 16:13-14). The consequence was dramatic. Saul would slip deeper and deeper into darkness and despair, while David seemed to lead a charmed life in spite of sins and tragedies. In fact, he became the model of the Messiah and has been a favorite subject for sculptors and painters ever since.

Thomas was not there to receive the Spirit and so he could not trust the good news that the other disciples shared with him. However, when he met Jesus later, everything changed and he allowed Jesus to become thenceforth the center of his life. The witness of others is always important, but nothing can replace a personal encounter with the Lord.

Life Implications

One need not look far in our world today for attitudes of cynicism and distrust. We should avoid becoming gullible or naïve, of course, but we must at all cost learn how to trust. The risen Lord offers us his Spirit and, if we open our hearts to that best of all gifts, we will be able to trust when it is proper to do so.

Most of all, we will trust God's promises, which tell us, in essence, that we can share in the life of Jesus if we dare to be kind and thoughtful and loving in a world that is too often thoughtless and cruel. We really cannot be trusting without the help of God, but with that help we can avoid the terrible pessimism of Saul and acquire the positive, hopeful spirit of David. This positive spirit is found everywhere in the Psalms, which have been attributed to David, not because he wrote more than a few of them, but because the authors of these beautiful prayers were all people like David.

A special gift of the Spirit is the confidence and freedom that allows us to forgive others. Life is just too short for holding grudges or for nursing old injuries. And when we let go of these burdens we will enter more and more into the joy and generosity of the Spirit. In this way, we will not only be free to face the future with courage but we will also become much more pleasant fellow travelers for those who are making the journey with us.

—Demetrius R. Dumm, O.S.B.

Celebrating the Year of St. Paul

"What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: "For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8: 31-39

Staff

Pastor: Church & School

Msgr: Labib Kobti

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Priest Brazilian Community

Fr. Sergio da Silva, (415) 454-8141

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RCIA & Music:

Suzanne Hockel

(415) 826-6834

STM School:

Principal, Joe Elsbernd

(415) 337-0100

This Week's Parish

Events

Tue., April 21st

Legion of Mary,

Scanlan Hall, 6:30 pm

Communion & Liberation,

Scanlan Hall, 8:00 pm

Wednesday, April 22nd

International Food Festival Committee

Scanlan Hall, 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 25th:

Bible Study Group,

Alma Via, 6:30 PM

Campus Ministry

Regular meeting:

Thursday 7:00pm

at Burk Hall 252

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM Portuguese/Brazilian;

10:00 AM English

11:45 AM Arabic;

8:00 PM English

Weekdays:

8:30 AM

(Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.);

5:30 PM (Tue., Thu.)

Holy Days:

8:30 AM & 8:00 PM

First Saturdays:

10:00 AM Burmese

First Fridays:

8:30 AM;

7:00 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Followed by Mass for healing at **8:00 PM**

Sacrament of Baptism (infants): Parents and godparents must attend Baptism Preparation Class. Call the office for Schedule.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays 9:30—9:45 AM; Saturday 4:30 PM. Any time upon request.

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact us at least 6 months prior to wedding date.

Communion to the homebound and the ill: Anyone who is ill and unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Communion may call the office to schedule a visit.

Anointing of the Sick: Any time upon request. If a parishioner is seriously ill at home, please inform the parish office regarding a visit for anointing.

Funeral arrangements: Funeral Director should contact Parish Office.

For Children and Youth: Under 6 years old, STM offers a "Crying Room" where parents can follow Mass, while children play away from the community. Over 6 years old, we have the "Children Liturgy", RCIC and RCIA and FLA groups and Summer Camps

For Adults: English Charismatic group, Sundays 6:00 PM; young adults group (18-late 20's) 2nd and 4th Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM; Arabic Youth groups, Fridays 6:30 PM; Brazilian Charismatic group, Mondays 7:00 PM; Burmese Youth group, Sundays 2:00 PM; SFSU Campus ministry, Thursdays 7:00 PM (on Campus)

For Families: Bible Study, Saturday at 7:00 PM; Couples For Christ: Saturday 5:00 PM; Legion of Mary, Communion Liberation, Perpetual Novena to the Sto. Nino; Prince of Peace and Friday adorations

Holy Land Museum & Shroud of Turin Exhibit

Open 9-4:30 Monday-Friday

Regular Activities

Parish Council
Liturgy Committee
Legion of Mary
Communion & Liberation
Charismatic groups for different ethnics

To Be Announced
As Announced
Tuesday, 6:30 PM
Tuesday, 7:30 PM
See schedule

Bible Study & Prayer
AACC Youth Group
Perpetual Novena: Sto. Nino
Prince of Peace
FLA Youth Group

Saturday, 7 PM at Alma Via
Friday, 6:00 PM
Last Friday, 7 PM
Friday, 8:30 PM
1st & 3rd Wed. at 6:30pm

Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. Menu items: 1 container of 100% juice, 2 cans of vegetables, 1 canned meat, 1 bag of rice. No glass items, please. Thanks.



***Thank you:** A big thank you to the members of our Liturgy Committee and all who helped our priests make our Lenten journey and Easter celebrations prayerful and filled with spirituality and faith. Thank you for your time and for sharing your talents.

***RCIC First Reconciliation & First Communion:** Please pray for our RCIC students who will have their First Reconciliation this Saturday, April 25 and will take their First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 26 at the 10 AM Mass. Thanks to Kathy Sanford and her crew for their perseverance and spirituality in imparting the basics of our Catholic faith to these children. Thank you also to their parents, and we pray for them, that they be guided by the Holy Spirit as they accompany their children on their lifelong journey of faith.

*** Mothers Day Brunch:** All families are invited to treat their mothers to something special at a minimal cost. Our church community will honor our mothers with a Brunch (after our morning Masses) in Carroll Hall on May 3rd. Please plan on it.



***Next week's second collection:** For the Black & Indian Missions & Catholic Home Missions. Please be generous.

Weekly Offering



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**Weekends of
April 5, 2009**

Offertory: \$9,829

Tithing: \$1,451

April 9 to 12, 2009

Triduum:

Holy Thursday: \$1,150.62

Good Friday: \$1,505.25

(Holy Land Collection)

Holy Saturday Vigil Masses:

\$5,079.48

Easter Sunday Masses:

\$4,989.23

Thank you for your generosity!

A CHEERFUL GIVER

A cheerful giver does not count the cost of what he gives. His heart is set on pleasing and cheering the one to whom the gift is given.

—St. Julian

MASS INTENTIONS

April 19 — April 25, 2009

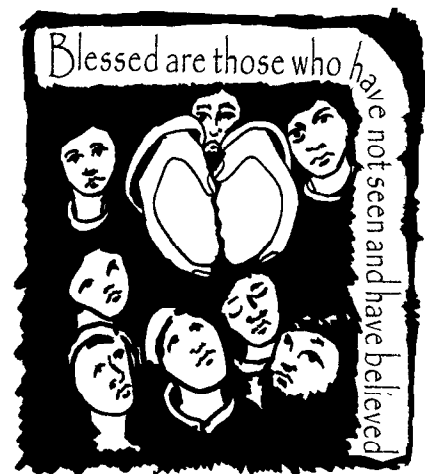
04/19 Sun 10:00am Marybeth Varcadost†
8:00pm People of STM
04/20 Mon 8:30am Crispin Cortes†
04/21 Tue 5:30pm All Souls in Purgatory†
04/22 Wed 8:30 am Mary Ravetti (healing)
04/23 Thu 5:30pm Special Intention
04/24 Fri 8:30 am Mary Ravetti (healing)
04/25 Sat 8:30 am Sara & Collin F-Noguera (hlg)
5:00 pm Francis Quinn†

Please call the office to schedule your Mass. Attending the Mass you offer is appreciated.



All the sick people in our parish, especially Patricia Colburn, Barbara Cunningham, Carmel Desmond, Collin & Sara Fernando-Noguera, Catherine Moynihan, Mac Nuqui, Marie Paynor-Cia, John Schulz, Lourdes Tam, Filemon Trinidad, Alejandro Villavicencio, Ruby Jimenez, Gordon Lu, Rosauero Tan, Jean Lu, Bridget Suazon, Rhona Palencia, Annika de Leon and for all who are ill in our parish.

All the deceased from our parish especially Mary Muhawieh.



If you are new to the area and not yet registered at Saint Thomas More Parish, we invite you to fill this out, cut it out and return it to the parish office/rectory or drop in the collection basket.

I choose to become a member of St. Thomas More and commit myself to building a community that seeks to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. I will commit myself to this mission by my active & consistent presence at worship financial giving even when I can't be present.

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone (s) _____

Email: _____ I want to use the envelopes and commit myself to a weekly contribution.

Yes, please _____ No, thanks. _____ Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: stmchurch@aol.com